

DAVID AND THE SYRIANS

2 Sam 10

Israel --world power of day.

2 Sam 10:1-32 Then said David, I will show kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness unto me.

Problem?

Nahash, king of Ammonites, friend of David's, died

His son Hanun became king.

David sends group of men.

Wants to build relationship with Hanun.

Shows ability to make wrong decisions.

Nahash a sworn enemy of Lord

Had his army surround Jabesh Gilead and demand every male have right eye gouged out.

Powell: *Nahash was a merciless bigot who never exercised mercy.*

How is Israel to act toward Ammonites and Moabites?

Deu 23:3-6 *An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; 6 Thou shalt not seek their peace nor their prosperity all thy days for ever.*

David's desires toward Hanun and Ammonites was in direct violation of God's command.

2 Chronicles 19 Jehoshaphat joined Ahab against Syrians

Ahab was an idolater.

God's wrath came upon him.

Jehoshaphat was judged because he helped the ungodly and loved them that hate the Lord

Jehu confronted him:

2 Chr 19:2 *..., Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.*

Adam Clarke: *And is not the wrath of God upon all those alliances which his people form with the ungodly, whether they be social, matrimonial, commercial, or political?*

Joash:

2 Chr 24:17 *Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them.*

Result: Groves and Idols brought into Israel. Both he and nation destroyed.

Proverbs 14:7 *Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.*

Proverbs 13:20 *He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*

Ephesians 5:11 *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*

Romans 16:17 *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*

Matt Hen: *it is not for those that love God to take delight in them or contract an intimacy with them. Do I not hate those, says David, that hate thee? Ps. 139:21, 11. Those whom the grace of God has dignified ought not to debase themselves. Let God's people be of God's mind.*

David helps the ungodly and loves them that hate the Lord.

Shows kindness to Hanun

2 Sam 10:4

Shaved off the one half of their beards

Growing of beard-- involved person's status and dignity in society.

Dr. John Kitto: *To shave off one side of the beard only was even more ignominious than to remove it altogether, although that, among the ancient and modern Eastern nations that cultivate the beard, was an offense not to be named without horror. It is very difficult for us to realize the intense appreciation of, and respect for, the beard which is entertained among Persians, Arabians, and other bearded nations. They treat their own beards with respect, suffering no defilement to come near them, and handling them with deliberate care. ...For any one else to touch a man's beard irreverently, to speak of it lightly, to cast a reproach upon it, was an offense never to be forgotten nor forgiven: but to cut or remove it by violence or stealth, was an affront, a disgrace, a horror, which scarcely the heart's blood of the offender could expiate....it became a symbol of manly dignity and strength, and the want (lack) of it, the sign of weakness and effeminacy" (Kitto's daily Bible Illustrations, vol 1, p. 763).*

4...and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away.

Men of this culture wore no under garments.

Everything showed from waist down.

That the shame of their nakedness might appear, and especially that of their circumcision, so derided by the heathen. (Trapp)

Remember Nabal

These men honorable men.

Well respected and dignified.

2 Sam 10:5

Stay at Jericho until their beards grew out, for they were very embarrassed by their appearance.

2 Sam 10:6 ... children of Ammon saw that they stank before David,

Realized how irate David was at them...how repulsive they were to him...
and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ishtob twelve thousand men.

2 Sam 10:7

Powerful warriors.

Cave of Adullam

1 Samuel 22:1-2 ... 2 *And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.*

2 Sam 23

Adino the Eznite: killed 800 men at once (2 Sam 23:8).

Jashobeam: killed 300 men at one time (1 Chron 11:11).

Benaiah: killed lion in a pit on a snowy day and then took on a huge Egyptian warrior and killed him with his own spear (1 Chron 11:22-23).

I appreciate fact that David loyal to his men.

2 Sam 10:8-17 Ammonites hire Syrians

Mercenaries...paid fighters!

Guns for hire!

They hide by their heavily fortified City of Rabbah. They have chariots and horsemen. They come down to try to squelch the armies of David.

The Syrians have the Ammonites stand in front of their city and they hide some 15 miles away with their chariots and horsemen.

Joab splits Syrians and Ammonites.

Cuts his enemies off from their own resources and causes them to flee.

This makes the Syrians the servants of David and Ammon isolated from anyone who would want to help them.

2 Sam 10:18-19

Chapter ends with Rabbah still unpunished.

Winter sets in

Spring--David send Joab and army out to deal with Rabbah

Then chapter 10....Big lesson

We will see what happens when the king doesn't go out to battle but waits comfortably back at his home.

Idle time offers temptation and David falls into sin of adultery.

Lessons from chapter 9:

People don't always appreciate your kind deeds.

Sometimes kind deeds misinterpreted

Never right to do wrong to do right

Always right to love people...not always right to do kind deeds to the wicked.

Doing kind deeds to the wicked causes good people to suffer .

Difference between?

God to Abram: Genesis 12:3 *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

Matthew 5:44 *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*

Jesus eating with publicans and sinners (Mt 9; Mk2)?

Luke 5:29-33 *And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them. 30 But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners? 31 And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. 32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. 33 And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?*

Psalms 139:21 *Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?*